(b) if so what steps are contemplated to improve the Numbul river for environmental protection of Imphal city?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The river Numbul is polluted from Hump bridge to Keisamthong for a distance of 1.5 kms and receives wastewater from the paona Bazar, Kakhulong Kabui and keisamthong Kaberi area. The river also receives wastewater from Thangal Bazar area through Naga Nullah. In the dry seasons extending from December to April, there is no regular flow in the river and as a result only wastewater flows in the river and thus the water is polluted.

(c) Low cost sanitation schemes and proper solid waste management are proposed by the Manipur State Pollution Control Board to contain the pollution in river Numbul.

Survey of environmental management practices

665. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first survey of environmental management practices by Indian corporates makes a dismal reading;

(b) if so, whether Tata Energy Research Institute wrote to 450 companies engaged in engineering mining and minerals, chemicals and pharmaceuticals service industry and others and only 48 of them responded;

(c) whether, with response from 48 corporates, the transparency and information sharing on such a sensitive issue is not up to desired level;

(d) if so, what are the major findings of the survey; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) According to a report, BT and the Tata Energy Research Institute jointly conducted a survey of environmental practices of 450 companies only. The evaluation focused on environmental management systems, and does not take into account physical environmental performance indicators such as emission levels, energy intensity and water consumption. No conclusive evaluation could be made from such a study.

(d) The major findings of the 47 companies include, that more than three-quarters had environmental practices in place, only four out of ten had formal

environmental certification and 60% had a separate environment department.

(e) The Government proposes to take up an effective Environmental Management System through amalgamation of self regulation and command and control system.

Safeguarding environment through awareness

666. SHRI S. SIVASUBRAMANIAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have an institution to teach/create awareness about environment amongst tourists, to safegurd the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any Act has been framed to safeguard the environment against the citizens/ tourists who throw garbage in the open; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is no specialised institution under the Ministry of Environment and Forests to teach/ create awareness on environment specifically amongst the tourists. However, eight Centres of Excellence established and funded by the Ministry have been conducting training courses, which cover topics concerning environment conservation including Eco-tourism. The Ministry also provides financial assistance to various NGOs and other institutions of the country to create awareness among general public through its National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) programme and to organise seminar, symposia, workshops etc. for imparting education and information on environment.

(d) and (e) There is no specific Act for safeguarding the environment against the citizens/ tourists who throw garbage in the open. However, the Ministry has notified Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2000 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules provide for collection, segregation and disposal of solid waste, including garbage, by the municipal bodies.